

# THE WILSON BULLETIN

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The editor will be away from home from June 23 to September 15, but mail will be attended to during that time if addressed to 352 West College Street, Oberlin, Ohio. Requests relating to completion of your files or for back numbers ought to be deferred until the return of the editor. Much of the information addressed to the editor can as well be secured from the secretary, A. F. Ganier, 2507 Ashwood Avenue, Nashville, Tenn.

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## FIELD NOTES

### TWO BACHMAN'S SPARROW'S NESTS NEAR BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY

Though Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*) is by no means a rare bird in certain favorable localities near Bardstown the finding of a nest has, until this year, been one of the unsolved problems concerning the birdlife of this locality. On April 26th, 1921, and the two days following, it was my good fortune to observe a pair of these sparrows nest building. The location was the corner of a wheat field; a clover field adjoined it on one side, and a narrow strip of pasture land bordered by a thicket extended along the other. At the time I was busy with team "snaking" out poles from a clearing in the thicket. The sparrows came to the edge of this clearing for nesting material and apparently were not at all disturbed by our operations. The male generally accompanied the female as she carried the nesting material, and, frequently, he sang while she searched over the ground for the piece of dead grass suited to her needs. But the song seemed to come from far out in the wheat field, yet the bird was only ten yards away. Once the female came within twenty-five feet of the team to get a piece of grass, and many times we passed ten or twelve yards distant from the nest while the female sat on the fence nearby. On May 2nd the first egg was laid, and the following day there was a second egg and also a Cowbird's egg. Two days later the eggs had disappeared and my hopes for a set of Bachman's Sparrows disappeared with them. The nest was five yards from the wire fence and about three yards back in the wheat. It

was very bulky, composed mainly of grass, with some shreds from corn stalks, and a few horse hairs in the lining. A row of wheat supported the nest at the rear, the next row was several inches in front of it; there was no other vegetation about the nest.

The afternoon of May 16th Mr. Albert F. Ganier and myself were working over a clover and timothy field at my home place in hopes of locating a nest of the Grasshopper Sparrow. The proverbial barefoot boy appeared on the scene, and when he learned that we were looking for bird's nests told us of a "ground sparrow's" nest in an adjoining field, which we decided to investigate. Arriving at the nest we found one of the parent birds about to feed the young, and were able to get a good look at it and to satisfy ourselves that it was a Bachman's Sparrow. The nest held four birds about six days old. The location of the nest was very different from the first. It was under a piece of brush which had been thrown in a "gully" to check the action of the rain, on an old worn out, washed away piece of land. There was little vegetation about the nest, only a little grass and some weeds and briars growing up through the brush; and surrounding this the ground was almost bare for a space several feet wide. There was a great contrast between the situation and surroundings of these two nests and both are different from the situation in which Mr. Ganier has found this species nesting at Nashville, Tennessee, as described and illustrated in the March issue of the Wilson Bulletin.

BEN J. BLINCOE.

Bardstown, Ky.

#### STARLINGS NEST AT HURON, OHIO

During February, 1921, I had had reports that there were some strange blackbirds staying at Mr. Carl Heimberger's farm about two miles southwest of town, but it was March 13th before I had a chance to investigate.

On that day, however, my wife and I walked out that way on one of our hikes and found eight or ten starlings. They came from the cupola of the barn one or two at a time and there seemed to be more inside. The long yellow bill and speckled plumage identified them at once. Mr. Heimberger stated that this was the second winter these birds had been around the barn. The winter before there had been about six or eight, but they had left in the spring and returned again in the fall at the approach of cold weather. They had increased in number until in February there must have been nearly two hundred. They did not stay around in the daytime, but would leave and return in the evening about four o'clock, collecting first in some tree and then going to the cupola of the barn to roost. During the week following our visit all the starlings but one pair left and these seemed to be investigating the hollow stub of a branch on an old apple tree near the barn. On